Caernarvon Interagency Advisory Committee Meeting
January 13, 2003
Lindy Boggs Conference Center
University of New Orleans

1. CIAC member roll call.

Bill Good	LDNR, Chair, CIAC
Bruce Baird	USACE
David Walther	USFWS
Jeanene Peckham	USEPA
Bren Haase	NMFS
Heather Warner-Finley	LDWF
Bruce Champion	LDHH
David Oge	LDEQ
Lonny Serpas	Plaquemines Parish Government
Clay Cossé	St. Bernard Parish Government
Jim Hasik	Recreational Fisheries
David Dawson	Landowner Representative

Representatives from NRCS, oyster fisheries, and shrimp fisheries were not present.

2. Motion: Approve minutes from previous meeting.
Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

3. Chuck Villarrubia, LDNR, presented the Caernarvon Annual Report. The report may be found at the DNR web site.

4. Presentation: "Caernarvon Eastward Outfall Management Project," John Lopez, USACE. Project is conceptual at this point.

5. Presentation: Status of land/water aerial photography analysis, Greg Steyer, USGS.

6. Presentation: Status of LSU Pulses project, John Day, LSU.

7. Report from Technical Work Group, Paul Gremillion, LDNR. The TWG met in December 2002 to discuss three agenda items, which appear below as items 8 through 10.

8. Measuring and reporting flows (Gremillion). Flow-measurement instrumentation recently installed at Caernarvon revealed that actual flows in the outfall channel are 10 to 15 percent higher than previously thought. Before this instrument was available, flow was estimated using an equation that related flow to gate opening and head difference across the structure. The following motions were considered to correct this discrepancy:

Motion: As of April 1, 2003, the USGS data collection platform (DCP) in the Caernarvon outflow channel shall be the official measure of

operational flow. For routine operations, the structure operator will make initial gate settings using the gate equations currently in use and will refine gate adjustments based on flows reported by the DCP. In the event of equipment failure, the gate equations will be used to determine flow. For reporting purposes, the historical record of flows measured by the DCP will be considered the official flow. The CIAC further approves funding for a computer with internet access for the structure operator to monitor flows.

Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

Motion: Because the operational plan was based on the earlier technology for measuring flows, the range of flows in the Operational Plan (Table 1) shall be corrected upward. The Technical Work Group is charged with the responsibility of analyzing flow data and developing a correction factor for flows.

Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

9. Report on the 5th Periodic Inspection (Gremillion). The inspection report was finalized by the USACE in autumn 2002. Several deficiencies were noted, none of which impaired the function of the structure. The TWG requested cost and time estimates for the work from the USACE Hired Labor group. It is anticipated that the work will be conducted during the low-river period of late-summer to early-autumn 2003 and will require complete closure of the structure for a period of up to 6 weeks.

10. Operational scheme for 2003 (Good).

Motion: At the request of LSU researchers and conditional on satisfying relevant footnotes to Table 1, from February 10, 2003 through March 31, 2003 the structure will be operated as follows:

February 10 – February 16	**Low flow (0 or 500 cfs)**
February 17 – March 2	**High flow (6,500 cfs)**
March 3 – March 16	**Low flow (0 or 500 cfs)**
March 17 – March 31	**High flow (6,500 cfs)**
April 1 – April 10	**Low flow (0 or 500 cfs)**

Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

Motion: Conditional on satisfying relevant footnotes to Table 1, flow shall be set at 5,000 cfs from January 14, 2003 to February 9, 2003. If this flow results in excessively high water levels in the basin, flows shall be reduced.

Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

Motion: At the request of LSU researchers, an experimental period of no-flow during the period of low-river flow shall be conducted during the late-summer or early-autumn of 2003, concurrent with maintenance

closure of the structure. Specific dates shall be determined by the TWG in coordination with LSU.
Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

Motion: Except for the periods specified by the motions of agenda item 8, the flow schedule shown in Table 1 shall be adopted as the Operational Plan for 2003. (Note that Table 1 flow ranges will be adjusted starting April 1, 2003 per the second motion from agenda item 8.)
Result: All in favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Passed

11. Other business: Junior Rodriguez, St. Bernard Parish, suggested that immediately following a tropical-storm or hurricane, it may be beneficial to open the structure for reverse flow to relieve flooding in the outfall area. Dr. Good responded that reverse-flow is not permitted in the Water Control Plan for the structure, but advised the TWG to examine this possibility.

12. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be scheduled for November 2003.

CAERNARVON FRESHWATER DIVERSION OPERATIONAL PLAN
January 2003

Month	Flow Range (cfs)[1]
January	3000-4000 [2]
February	3000-4000 [2]
April	500-4000 [5]
May	500-4000 [3]
June	1000-4000 [3]
July	1000-2000 [4]
August	1000-2000 [4]
September	1000-2000 [4]
October	1000-2000 [4]
November	1000-2000 [4]
December During Duck Season Split	2500 [2] 5600[1,2]

[1] Notwithstanding these flow range targets, operational procedures relating to emergencies, closure of the structure or reduction of flow to reduce the threat of coastal flooding or high water levels reflected by monitoring and operational procedures pertaining to low Mississippi River stage or drought conditions shall all remain in effect. The structure will be closed if the water level measured by a real-time gauge at the southeast corner of Big Mar reads above 3.1 NGVD.
[2] Salinity at Bay Gardene will by monitored to stay above 3 ppt.
[3] For oyster production, the salinities at the Bay Gardene station will be monitored during these months. The structure will be operated at the lower discharge levels. If the Bay Gardene station moves to 9 ppt based on a two-week average, Caernarvon discharge will be increased, but will not exceed 4000 cfs, to decrease the average to 9 ppt. Water levels gauges will be added to certain sites and monitored.
[4] Seek to maintain annual average 5 ppt line, based on a yearly average, and monitor salinities as to promote enhancement of oyster production in the public seed grounds and to achieve other stated benefits of the project, up to 2000 cfs.
[5] Seek to maintain annual average 5 ppt line, based on a yearly average, and monitor salinities as to promote enhancement of oyster production in the public seed grounds and to achieve other stated benefits of the project, up to 4000 cfs.